IDEA-0873-62
27 August 1962
Copy 5 of 5

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, OSA/DD/R

SUBJECT : Climatic Study of "The Far East" (15 September-31 December)

1. It is the desire and will be the policy of the Chief, Weather Staff, to provide the Assistant Director, Chief of the Operations Division, and the IDEALIST Branch, OSA/DD/R with climatological information which must be considered to insure maximum probability of mission success.

2. Since the success of any IDEALIST mission is directly dependent upon near cloud-free target and area weather, it is hoped that this advisory service will provide all concerned with "Food for Thought" when considering and discussing future plans and requirements.

3. Tentative plans for maximum coverage might be established, in areas of prime interest, when considering the approach of a season with optimum weather conditions. "The Far East", from Northeast China to, and including North Vietnam, presents an excellent example where choosing your weather for action will increase the probability of success immeasurably.

4. A vivid, illustrative example of this action commences with the Autumnal Transition Season (15 September-15 October) and generally continues through December over our areas of interest - China and Vietnam.

5. The persistent, predominately poor-weather, Southwest Monsoonal Flow, which has caused many hours of consternation, rapidly gives way to extended, forecastable periods of optimum weather for high level photography as the Siberian high cell intensifies, sending cold air from the north and northeast over northern China southward until it finally becomes the dominant Northeast Monsoonal Flow of the winter season. The well known Polar Front drives southward, leading this cold air advance - but- also of great significance is the fact that well ahead of the Polar Front the Intertropical Conveyence Zone rapidly recedes to south North Vietnam (extending east southeastward) with a result and period on improvement in weather conditions over North Vietnam and South China as early as 15 September continuing periodically through 15 October. Periods of excessive rainfall and flood conditions are experienced over Vietnam and Southwest China during this period since the areas lie in the favored storm track of typhoons during the Autumnal Season. None the less, clearing to 2/8s cloud cover or less approaches an average of one day in three in September versus one day in ten in August over North Vietnam.

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6. An important point to stress at this time is that the Szechwan Basin experiences perhaps its poorest weather of the year during the Autumnal Season because the mountains retard the southward movement of the Polar Front and minor wave developments continually ripple through the area. This critical area of interest normally will see little improvement until November when approximately one day in six might be expected to meet CAT II requirements.

7. Another important point to stress is that as the Siberian high cell continues to develop the wind flow takes a trajectory over and east of Japan, over warm-moist ocean waters with resultant stratus and stratocumulus cloud decks becoming more and more prevalent and persistent along coastal areas (Formosa Straits, South China and Vietnam) and extending inland 100-200 miles (or more). This effect is called a "Crachin" in the area of Vietnam and normally occurs three days per month in November, eight days in December, and eleven days in January over Hanoi. It can persist as long as 9 days in November, 17-18 days in December and January. The Polar Front lies well south of our area of interest by January, until it again recedes northward with the approaching Southwest Monsoon in April to mid-May.

8. To pictorially portray these pertinent facts, approximate boundaries have been established, dividing China and Vietnam into the following areas:

I - Northeast China	Figure 2
II - North China	Figure 3
III - Formosa Straits	Figure 4
IV - South China	Figure 5
V - Szechwan Basin	Figure 6
VI - North Vietnam	Figure 7

9. Figure 1 depicts the mean Polar Front and ICZ position for 15 Sept., 1 Nov., and 15 Dec., with accompanying cold-warm air trajectories for Sept.-Dec.

10. Figures 2 thru 7 depict the % frequency of 2/8s or less cloud cover as follows:

$\geq$ 50% = 15 days out of 30 days = CAT II - Blue
$\geq$ 30% = 9 days out of 30 days = CAT II - Green
$\geq$ 5% = 1.5 days out of 30 days = CAT II - Red

11. The period considered for these charts is September thru December, with September as solid isolines, the best month for operation tinted blue, and December as dashed isolines.

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12. Climatic averages of CAT II weather are also listed for selected targets within each area for the months August through December. August is included to indicate the significant improvement of future versus past weather conditions.

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[redacted]

Chief, Weather Staff, OSA/DD/R

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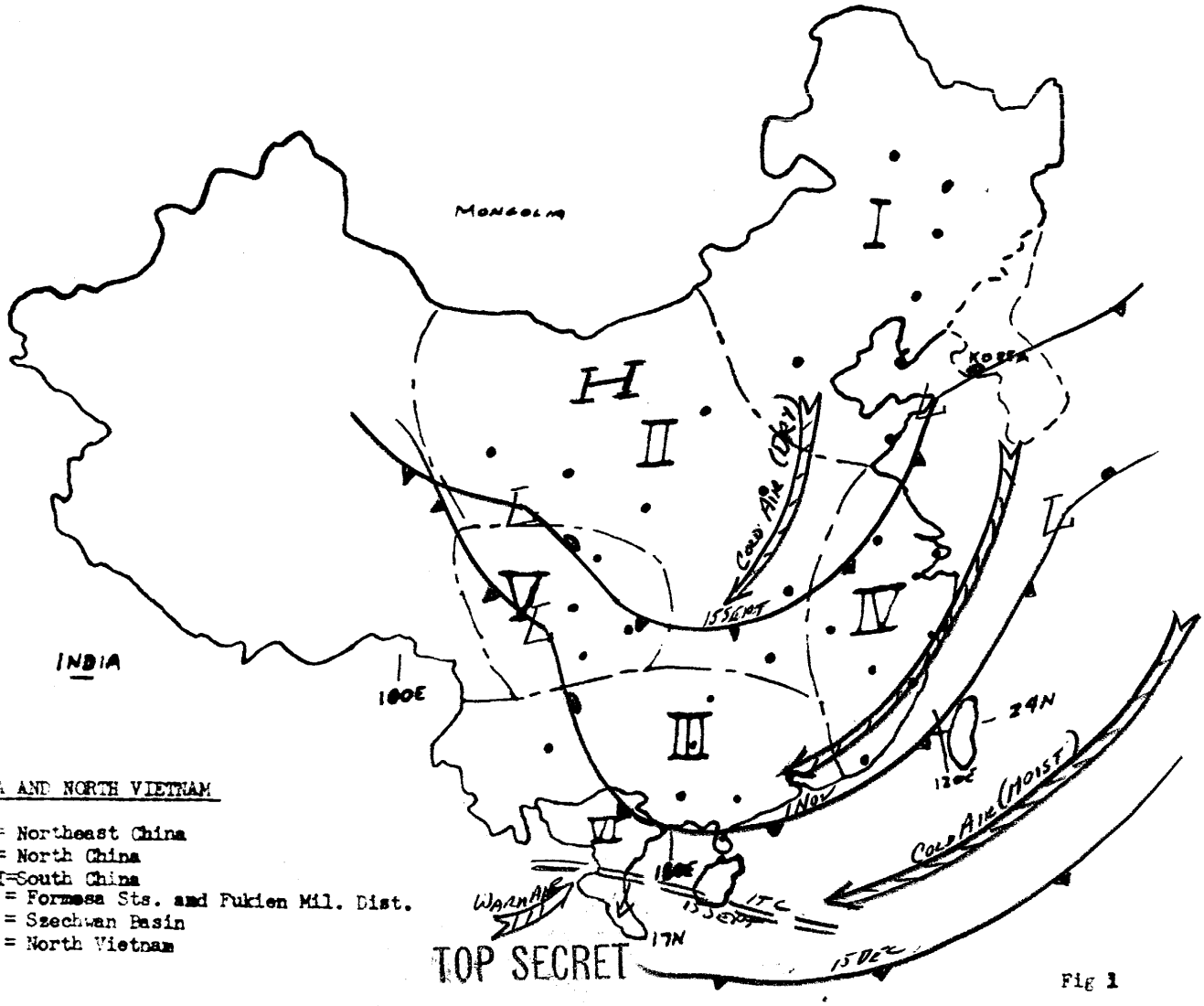
GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification



CHINA AND NORTH VIETNAM

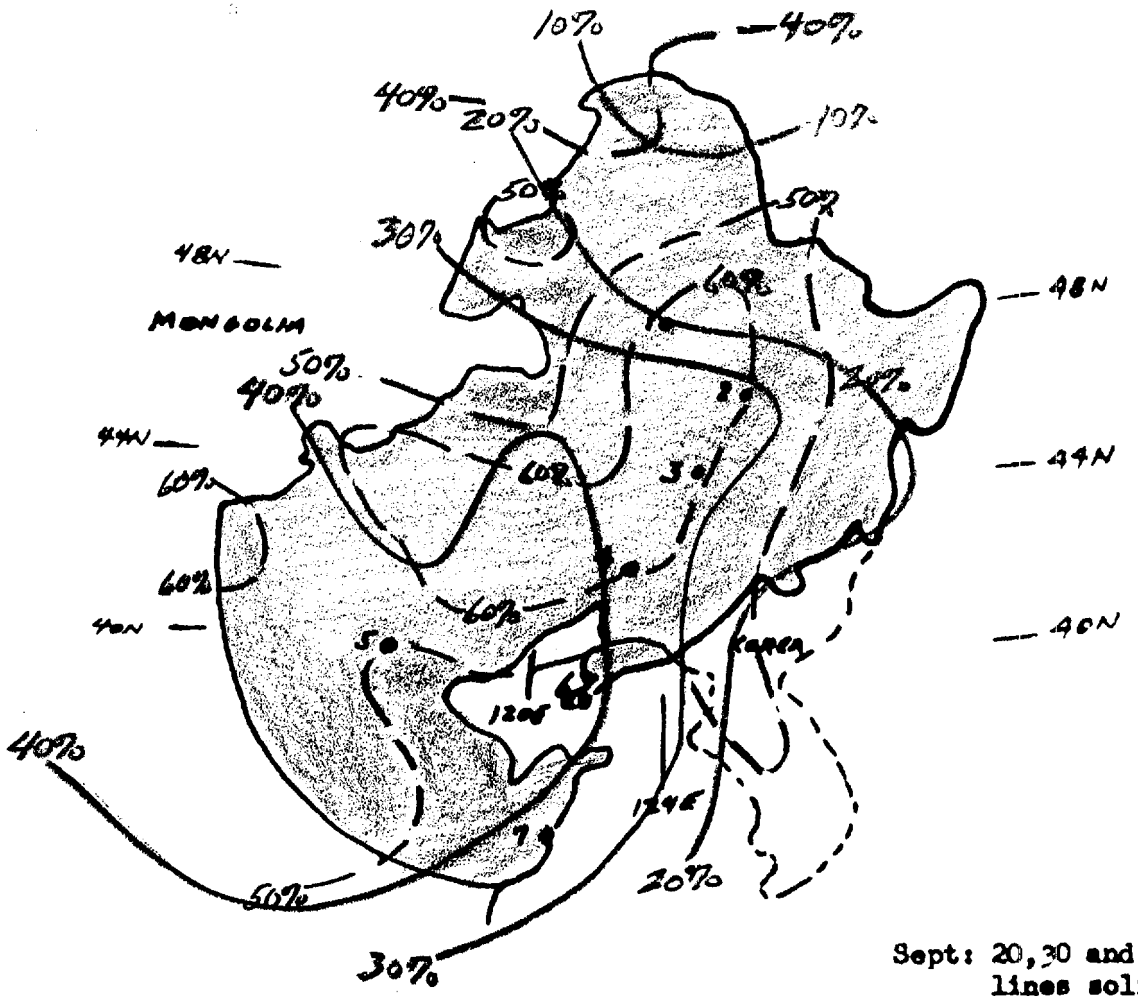
AREA I = Northeast China
AREA II= North China
Area III=South China
Area IV = Formosa Sts. and Fukien Mil. Dist.
Area V = Szechwan Basin
Area VI = North Vietnam

Fig 1

AREA I
Northeast China

Mean Number of Days with 2/8 or less Sky Cover at 1200L

Target	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1. Chichihaerth	5	6	15	13	17	19
2. Harbin	6	10	15	16	18	18
3. Chang-Chun	3	10	15	16	18	19
4. Mukden	4	11	15	17	18	19
5. Peiping	6	13	19	16	18	15
6. Port Authur	5	13	12	16	14	14
7. Tsingtao	4	11	11	14	13	12



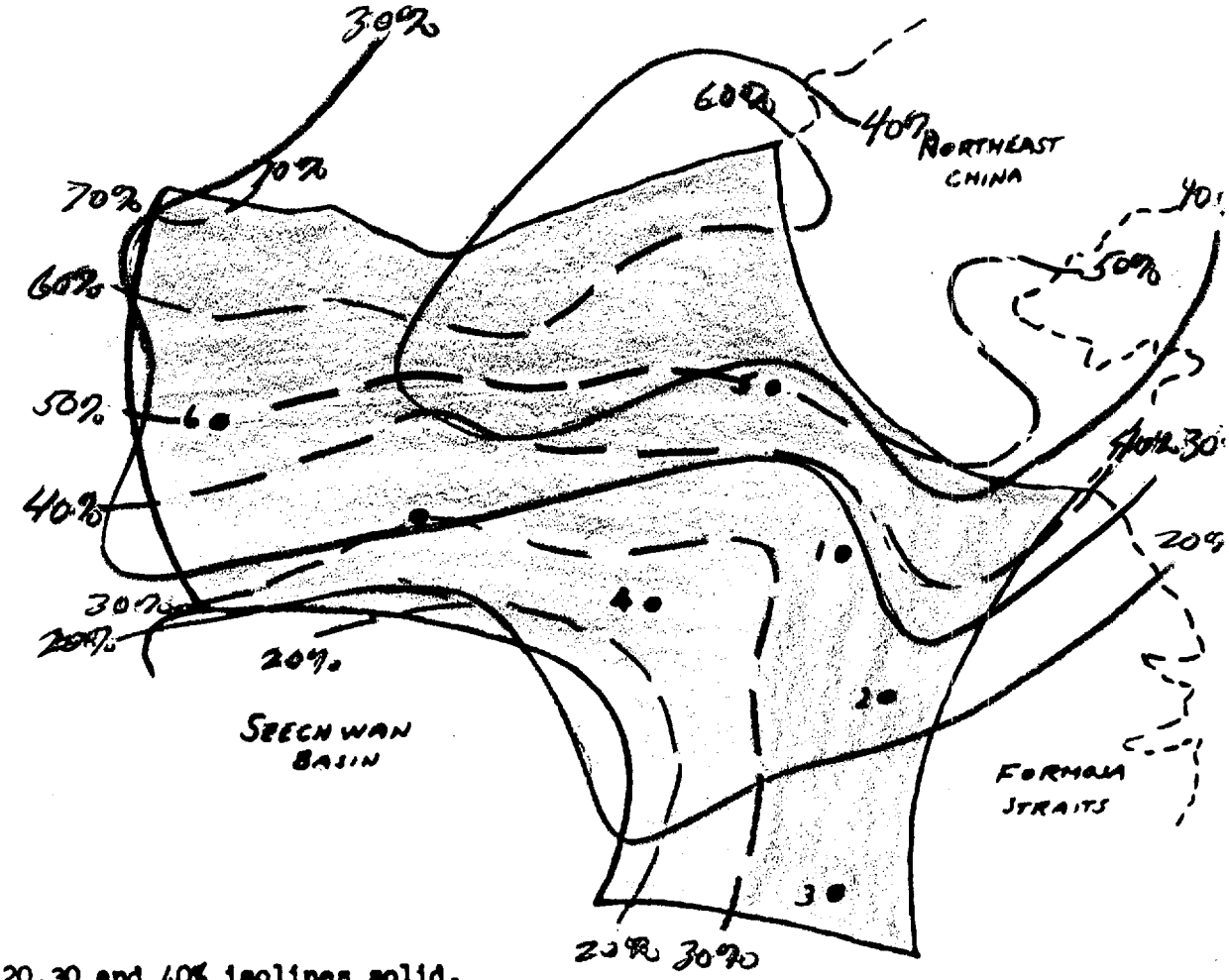
Sept: 20, 30 and 40% isolines solid
Dec: Best month: 40, 50 and 60% dashed and tinted
≥30% OR 9 DAYS
≥50% OR 15 DAYS

Fig 2

AREA II
North China

Mean Number of Days with 2/8 or less Sky Cover at 1200L

Target	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1. Cheng-Chou	4	7	8	12	10	8
2. Hankow	6	8	8	12	10	6
3. Chang-sha	3	5	6	10	10	4
4. Sian	4	7	10	8	8	6
5. Taian	6	11	15	15	16	13
6. Koko-Nor	4	9	18	15	15	15



Sept: 20,30 and 40% isolines solid.
Nov-Dec: Best months-Dec 20,30,40,50,60 and 70% isolines dashed and tinted.

- ≥ 10% on 3 DAYS +
- ≥ 30% on 9 DAYS +
- ≥ 50% on 15 DAYS +

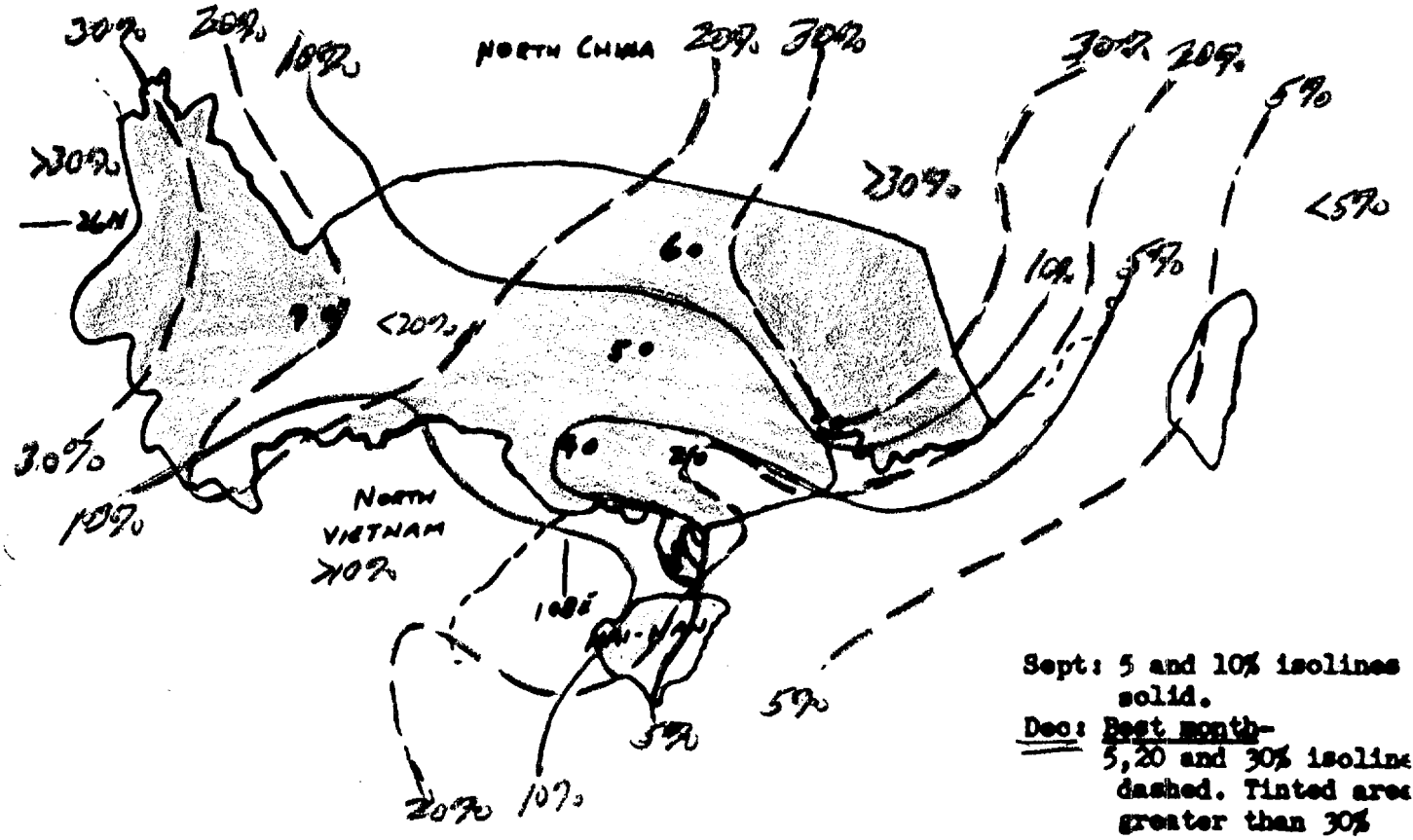
Fig 3

TOP SECRET

AREA III
South China

Mean Number of Days with 2/8 or Less Sky Cover at 1200L

Target	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1. Canton	4	4	9	9	9	3
2. Yu-Lin	1	1	2	5	5	2
3. Fort Bayard	5	2	5	7	7	2
4. Man-Ning	1	1	5	6	7	2
5. Liu-Chou	2	2	6	6	8	3
6. Kuei-Lin	4	5	6	7	8	3
7. Kun-Ming	1	1	3	6	7	7

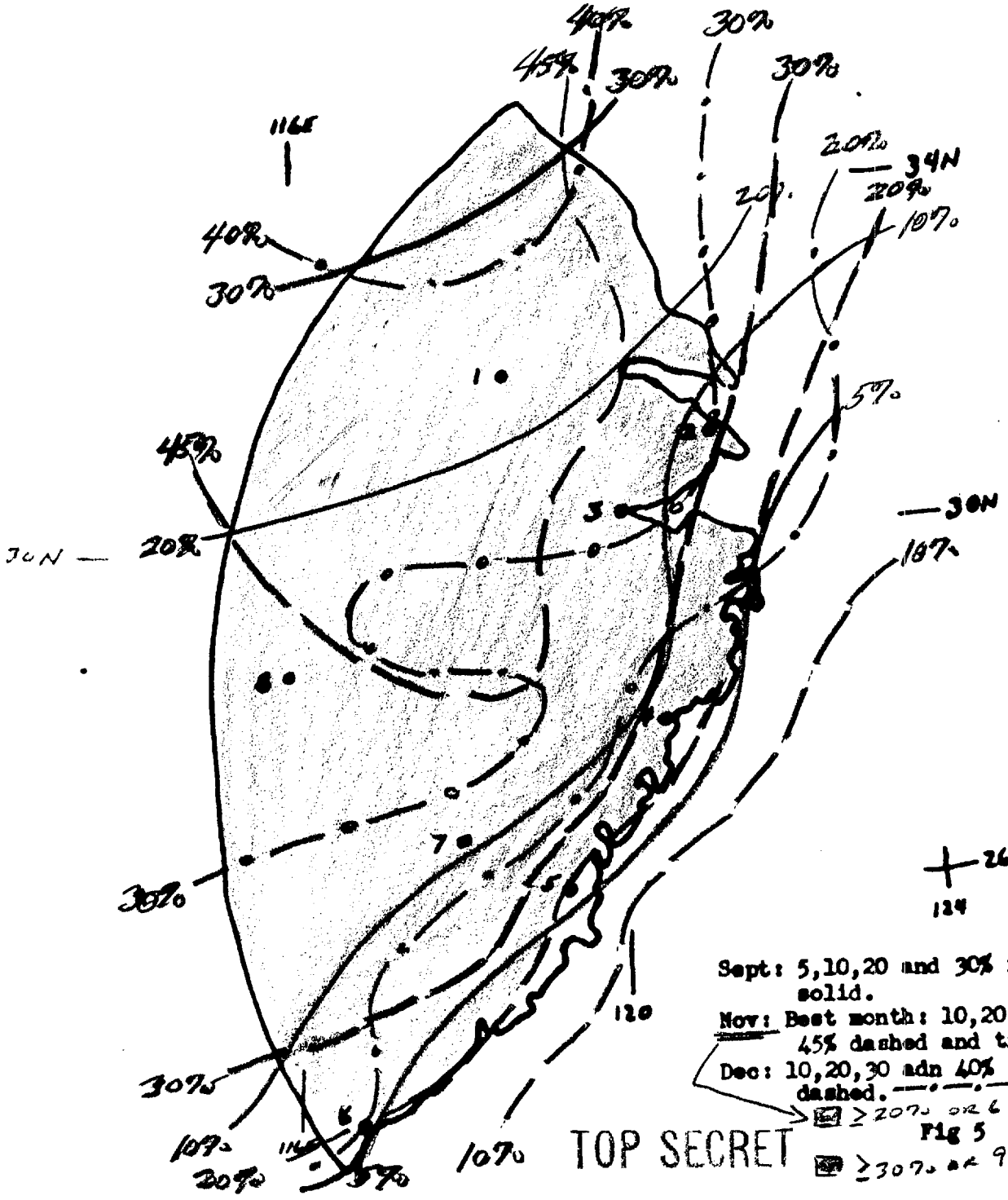


Sept: 5 and 10% isolines solid.
Dec: Best month- 5,20 and 30% isoline dashed. Tinted area greater than 30%

Fig 4
≥10% OR 6 DAYS +
≥30% OR 9 DAYS +

TOP SECRET

Target	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1. Nanking	5	7	10	14	11	7
2. Shanghai	3	2	7	9	9	5
3. Hangchow	4	4	7	11	9	4
4. Wenchow	3	2	5	7	5	3
5. Fu-Chou	4	2	5	5	5	3
6. Swatow	1	1	6	6	6	2
7. Nanping	3	3	7	12	10	4
8. Nan-Chang	5	5	8	13	10	4



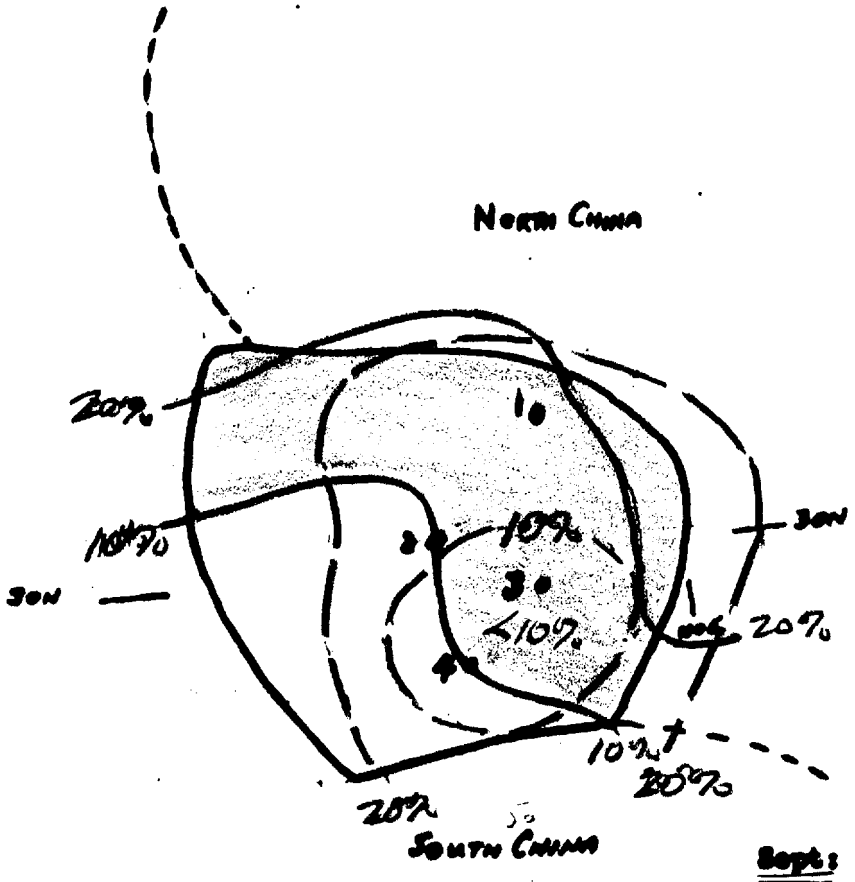
TOP SECRET

Fig 5

AREA V
Szechwan Basin

Mean Number of Days with 2/8 or less Sky Cover at 1200L

Target	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1. Kuang-Yuan	4	5	4	5	4	4
2. Cheng-tu	3	3	3	4	4	4
3. Chungking	3	5	2	2	3	3
4. I-pin	3	3	1	3	3	3



Sept: Best month: 10 and 20% isolines solid and tinted.
Dec: 10 and 20% isolines dashed.
Oct is the worst month, but all are generally poor.

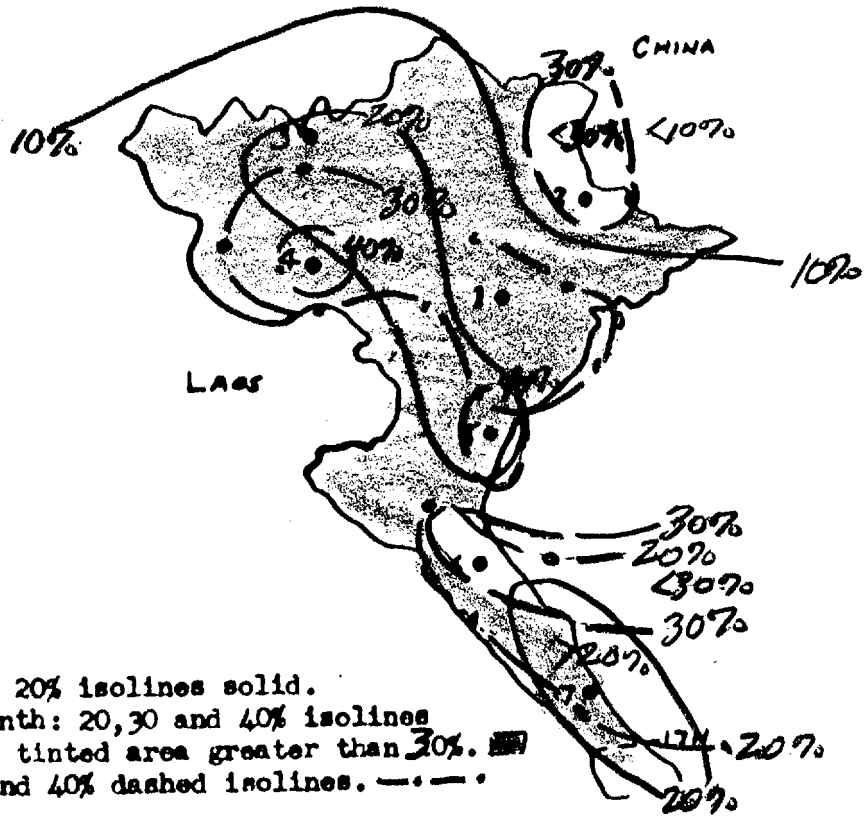
Fig 6

≥ 10% OR 3 DAYS +

AREA VI
North Vietnam

Mean Number of Days with 2/8 or Less Sky Cover at 1200L

Target	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
1. Hanoi	2	4	9	6	10	5
2. Lang Son	1	3	7	6	7	3
3. Lao Kay	3	7	9	6	7	7
4. Son La	3	5	11	7	13	13
5. Thanh Hoa	3	8	13	8	8	6
6. Vinh	4	5	8	3	5	4
7. Dong Hoi	5	7	11	6	5	8



Sept: 10 and 20% isolines solid.
Oct: Best month: 20,30 and 40% isolines dashed. tinted area greater than 30%.
Dec: 20,30 and 40% dashed isolines. —·—·

Fig 7